10/591240 IAP12 Rec'd PCT/PT031 AUG 2006

PATENT 8048-1180

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Keiji KATATA et al

Conf.

Application No. NEW NATIONAL PHASE

Group

Filed August 31, 2006

Examiner

INFORMATION RECORDING APPARATUS AND METHOD, INFORMATION RECORDING/REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND METHOD AND COMPUTER PROGRAM

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

August 31, 2006

Sir:

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begin on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.

An Appendix is attached following the signature page of this paper.